

(b) Competitive selection

The Administrator shall conduct an initial competition to select the regional centers that will participate in the program 90 days after the publication of the final program direction under section 3423 of this title and every 5 years thereafter. Funding for projects conducted through the regional centers shall be awarded through a competitive, merit-reviewed process on the basis of their relevance to the goals of the program and their technical feasibility.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, § 12106, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1420.)

§ 3426. Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—

(1) for fiscal year 2009—

(A) \$13,750,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$5,500,000 for the National Technology Institute;

(2) for fiscal year 2010—

(A) \$15,125,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$6,050,000 for the National Technology Institute;

(3) for fiscal year 2011—

(A) \$16,638,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$6,655,000 for the National Technology Institute;

(4) for fiscal year 2012—

(A) \$18,301,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$7,321,000 for the National Technology Institute;

(5) for fiscal year 2013—

(A) \$20,131,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$8,053,000 for the National Technology Institute;

(6) for fiscal year 2014—

(A) \$22,145,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$8,859,000 for the National Technology Institute; and

(7) for fiscal year 2015—

(A) \$24,359,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$9,744,000 for the National Technology Institute.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, § 12107, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1420.)

CHAPTER 48—OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING INTEGRATION

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§ 3501. Establishment of program**(a) In general**

The President, in coordination with the Interagency Committee on Ocean and Coastal Mapping and affected coastal states, shall establish a program to develop a coordinated and comprehensive Federal ocean and coastal mapping plan for the Great Lakes and coastal state waters, the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf of the United States that enhances ecosystem approaches in decision-making for conservation and management of marine resources and habitats, establishes research and mapping priorities, supports the siting of research and other platforms, and advances ocean and coastal science.

(b) Membership

The Committee shall be comprised of high-level representatives of the Department of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Interior, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other appropriate Federal agencies involved in ocean and coastal mapping.

(c) Program parameters

In developing such a program, the President, through the Committee, shall—

(1) identify all Federal and federally-funded programs conducting shoreline delineation and ocean or coastal mapping, noting geographic coverage, frequency, spatial coverage, resolution, and subject matter focus of the data and location of data archives;

(2) facilitate cost-effective, cooperative mapping efforts that incorporate policies for contracting with non-governmental entities among all Federal agencies conducting ocean and coastal mapping, by increasing data sharing, developing appropriate data acquisition and metadata standards, and facilitating the interoperability of in situ data collection systems, data processing, archiving, and distribution of data products;

(3) facilitate the adaptation of existing technologies as well as foster expertise in new ocean and coastal mapping technologies, including through research, development, and training conducted among Federal agencies and in cooperation with non-governmental entities;

(4) develop standards and protocols for testing innovative experimental mapping tech-